

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02225 211518Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 /069 W
-----012058 211723Z /43
R 211415Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8710

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2225

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PGOV ZA
SUBJ: LITANA DEFENDS NATIONAL COUNCIL NOMINATION

1. A HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF UNIP'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS STRONGLY DEFENDED LAST WEEK'S DECISION BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL TO NOMINATE PRESIDENT KAUNDA AS CANDIDATE FOR ANOTHER TERM. THE COUNCIL'S MOVE, WHICH BROKE PRECEDENT BY MAKING THE NOMINATION RATHER THAN LEAVING IT TO THE UNIP GENERAL CONFERENCE, HAD GIVEN RISE TO RUMORS THAT KAUNDA NEEDED AN EARLY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TO BOLSTER HIS SUPPORT AND COUNTER OTHER POTENTIAL CANDIDATES. BOB LITANA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, PUBLICITY AND STRATEGY, DECLARED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 19 THAT THE EARLY NOMINATION WAS A "DELIBERATE MOVE TO SHOW UNITY IN THE PARTY." AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE ADMITTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN OPPOSITION TO THE DECISION WITHIN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. LITANA ASSERTED THAT DESPITE THE NOMINATION THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTIONS ON OTHER CANDIDATES CHALLENGING KAUNDA AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AT MULUNGUSHI.

2. IN OTHER COMMENTS, LITANA WARNED THAT MPS, PARTY LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATORS WHO CRITICIZE OR ACTIVELY SUBVERT ESTABLISHED UNIP POLICIES RUN THE RISK OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02225 211518Z

LOSING THEIR JOBS. LITANA BLAMED COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND OTHER ECONOMIC WOES ON A SMALL GROUP OF "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED" PEOPLE WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO DISCREDIT THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP. HE WARNED THAT HEADS WILL SOON START TO ROLL.

3. LITANA ALSO REAFFIRMED ZAMBIA'S DETERMINATION NOT TO

REOPEN THE BORDER WITH RHODESIA. HE SEID THAT ZAMBIA WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE SACRIFICES IN SUPPORT OF THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, AND ADDED, "BESIDES IT WOULD BE A STUPID THING FOR US TO REOPEN THE BORDER NOW AFTER SUFFERING FOR A LONG TIME."

4. COMMENT: LITANA'S DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTION, WHICH WAS TAKEN IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN STIMULATED BY QUESTIONS (PROBABLY PROMPTED BY THOSE WITHIN THE COUNCIL WHO OPPOSED THE MOVE) REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE "NOMINATION." WHILE THE PROCEDURE WAS UNUSUAL, THE RESOLUTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE BEYOND THE RULES OF THE PARTY OR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. THE RESOLUTION, IN THEORY AT LEAST, IS NOT BINDING ON THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ANY QUALIFIED PARTY MEMBER IS STILL FREE TO RUN FOR THE FORMAL NOMINATION AS SOLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANYONE OPENLY CHALLENGING KAUNDA AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTION WAS PROBABLY TAKEN MORE FOR ITS PUBLICITY VALUE THAN TO HEAD OFF POTENTIAL OPPONENTS TO KAUNDA. CLINGERMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA02225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780259-0078
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780636/aaaabewn.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ca85b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2267328
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LITANA DEFENDS NATIONAL COUNCIL NOMINATION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ca85b784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014